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Heather K. Kranz

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3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY

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EXAMINER

NELSON, MICHAEL B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1794

NOTIFICATION DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/02/2009

ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicants arguments filed on 06/22/09 have been considered but are not persuasive.

Applicant's argues that the two references are not combinable on the grounds that the Soodak et al. reference is directed towards the welding of the peripheral edges of a plastic film stack that is intended to be used for bags while the Schrenk et al. plastic film stack is intended to be used for optical purposes. The examiner disagrees that these two references are non-analogous art. Both references are directed towards multilayer polymeric films which are intended to resist delamination (Soodak et al., C11, L35-45 and Schrenk et al. C7, L45-55) and which have some optically functional properties (Soodak et al., C2, L15-25). Regarding the expectation of success, Soodak et al. discloses that the process results in the two films maintaining their optical qualities (C11, L35-45). The fact that the two films are disclosed as being made of similar polymeric materials (i.e. fluorinated polymers, Soodak et al., C2, L1-15 and Schrenk et al., C7, L5-10) provides further evidence of their relation as analogous art and of the expectation of success in edge sealing the optical film of Schrenk et al. Hence it would have been obvious to have formed a peripheral seal as suggested by Soodak et al. on the laminate of Schrenk et al. in order to prevent delamination.

2. Regarding applicant's arguments that the edge sealing would not necessarily be recognized as preventing delamination, the examiner disagrees. The edge sealing of Soodak et al. is a type of localized lamination and therefore, by definition, prevents delamination.

3. Regarding applicant's arguments related to the "autoclave" limitations, the examiner notes that the autoclaving process is only recited in so much as it defines the term "reduced delamination." In short, the claim does not require that the sheet or the laminate be autoclaved,

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only that the edge welding of the sheet provide the property of delamination resistance under the condition of autoclaving. The edge sealing of Soodak et al. would inherently prevent delamination **if** the sheet were subjected to autoclaving, (at least during the placement o of the sheet into the glazing) and therefore reads on the instant limitation.

***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MICHAEL B. NELSON whose telephone number is (571) 270-3877. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday 6AM-4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/David R. Sample/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/MN/  
06/28/09